

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 11, 37 and 41 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for sending an Email communication to recipients, the method comprising:

providing an Email communication program on a server that performs the acts of: receiving an Email communication, including an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication;

determining by the Email communication program, whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication;

if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing a single copy of the Email communication on the server;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients;

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient;

saving the Email communication on the server if any one of the recipients indicate it is to be saved; and

when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent and accessed by all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication from the server by the Email communication program if none of the recipients indicate it is to be saved; and

if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for sending an Email communication to recipients, the method comprising:

providing an Email communication program on a server that performs the acts of: receiving an Email communication, including an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication;

determining by the Email communication program, whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication;

if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing a single copy of the Email communication on the server;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients; and

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient;

if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication; and

when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that all of the recipients have indicated that the Email communication can be deleted, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including:

determining a period of time for which the Email communication will be stored; and

when the determined period of time has expired, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying of a recipient of the Email communication involves sending a distinct indicator Email communication to the recipient by the Email communication program.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including retrieving notifying instructions for a recipient, and wherein the notifying of the recipient is performed according to the notifying instructions.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are supplied by a sender of the Email communication.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are supplied by the recipient.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions are determined automatically by the Email communication program based on past interactions with the recipient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifying instructions indicate that the notifying is to be performed in an encrypted manner.

23-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to send an Email communication to recipients by:

configuring an Email communication program to perform each of the acts of:

receiving the Email communication and an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication;

determining whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication; and

if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing a single copy of the Email communication on a server;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients;

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient;

if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication; and

saving the Email communication on the server if any of the recipients have indicated that the Email communication is to be saved;

when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the Email Communication from the server if none of the recipients have indicated that the Email communication is to be saved.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the Email communication program is further configured to perform the acts of:

tracking the sending of the Email communication to the recipients; and

when the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for sending an Email communication to recipients, comprising:

an Email communication distributor program that receives the Email communication and an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication, and that determines whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication, that stores a single copy the Email communication on a server if multiple recipients have been indicated and notifies each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated, and that sends the Email communication to a recipient in response to a request for the Email communication from the recipient, and sends the Email communication to a single recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated; and

a communication tracker configured with the Email communication distributor program for deleting the stored Email communication from the server when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients and that the Email communication has not been indicated to be saved by any of the recipients and saving the stored Email communication on the server if any one of the recipients indicate that the message is to be saved.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 41, further comprising:

a communication tracker configured with the Email communication distributor program for tracking the sending of the Email communication to the recipients, and for deleting the stored Email communication when the Email communication has been sent to all of the recipients.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for sending an Email communication to recipients, the method comprising:

providing an Email communication program on a server that performs the acts of: receiving an Email communication, including an indication of at least one recipient to receive the Email communication;

determining by the Email communication program, whether multiple recipients of the Email communication have been indicated in the received indication;

if it is determined that multiple recipients have been indicated,

storing a single copy of the Email communication on the server;

notifying each of the multiple recipients of the Email communication without sending the Email communication to the recipients;

in response to a request for the Email communication from a recipient, sending the Email communication to the recipient;

receiving from one or more of the multiple recipients an indication that the Email Communication is to be deleted;

if an indication that the Email Communication is to be deleted is received from all of the multiple recipients of the Email Communication, deleting the Email communication on the server; and

if it is determined that multiple recipients have not been indicated,

sending the Email communication to the recipient without waiting for a request for the Email communication.